



**Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020**

Members Attending via Zoom: Beth Davison, Leslie Bjorgum, Terry Jost, Jeff Dockstader, Julie Pearce, Annette Dellacroce, Susie Baird

Members Excused: Ron Schaeffer, Dennis Kuntz

Staff Present: Tatum Heath, Matt Morrill, Lindsey Garey, Michelle Hoza

Call to Order

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: "To approve the board meeting minutes from November 11th, 2020."

First: Julie Pearce

Second: Jeff Dockstader

The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report for November 12th through December 4th 2020:

Program & Personnel

The agency thanks all the Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) who worked over Thanksgiving and will work over Christmas. While the majority of Americans clock-out and head home, these amazing workers go above and beyond their regular job duties to make the holidays special for the people we serve, providing 24-hour care, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Thank you!

As of right now, there are 6,000 new COVID cases daily in Colorado; 1 in 49 Coloradoans have COVID. That translates into a 12% infection rate. Right now, Moffat is at 16.8% community spread while Routt is at 7.4%. But more than that, ICUs are at 87% capacity statewide. People are being admitted more quickly than they can be released. This is perhaps the most important and alarming piece of information because access to critical care for extreme cases is essential for survival. From an agency perspective, Horizons' licensed health facilities are required by law to conduct two tests per week if community spread is above 10% in that county. As a result, staff in Moffat have been working hard to complete testing twice per week. Routt is conducting

weekly testing. In Moffat County, there was one person in services and two staff who tested positive this past month. Because they were identified so quickly through testing, the agency was able to provide necessary care for the individual in services and implement isolation directives from public health. All three of these cases were resolved and the individuals have been released from quarantine. Testing continues to be the most effective tool in managing the spread of the virus.

Horizons migrated from the Lab Online testing system to the new, state mandated, Curative Testing system. While the initial setup was time-consuming and tedious, the turnaround time for results is much faster. Another added benefit is that Curative directly notifies staff of the results via text, saving time for supervisors.

Individuals enrolled in Horizons' programs were registered for the vaccine and will be among the first to receive it once available. Kari Ladrow from Moffat County Public Health said that Horizons residents at group homes may have access to the COVID vaccination as soon as mid-December.

A Human Rights Committee meeting was held on December 2nd to review psychotropic medications, rights modifications, and investigations.

Madeline, Mike, and Sylvia worked on a Supported Employment survey. While everyone is extremely busy managing regular work duties with new and difficult COVID dynamics, allocating time to appropriately complete this survey was critical because of its potential impact on Medicaid reimbursement rates.

Madeline and Yvonne continue to represent Horizons in the Routt County? Vulnerable Populations calls intended to provide guidance and support for at-risk individuals.

Case Management continues to operate remotely and virtually per state guidance.

Pam Martien-Koch, an Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Specialist, is offering a variety of behavior support trainings over the next few weeks. Behavior strategies and tools are paramount in supporting DSP's during extended isolation periods and the holidays.

Game Night continues to be so popular that it is now twice a week on Wednesdays 2:30-3:30 and Thursdays 4:00-5:30. They often include former employees and volunteers.

Resource Development & Public Relations

The 2020 Little Points of Light Campaign (LPOL) appeal letter was sent out in the mail to hit boxes in December. Horizons has already received several donations. To raise awareness for the campaign, The Herald Times ran a cover story about one of our Rio Blanco families who benefits from our Early Intervention and Family Support programs. Also, there is a family with triplets who lives in Walden lined up to be featured in the Sky Hi News to help raise awareness in Grand County.

Horizons held its first ever virtual event, the Rio Blanco Little Points of Light Campaign Kick-off Party on Thursday, December 3rd, from 6-7pm via Zoom. The agency raised \$1,000 in an event sponsorship from White River Electric Association (WREA). WREA has also submitted this donation for a possible matching grant through their affiliated organization Basin Electric Cooperative which could increase the total donation to \$2,000. Vanessa Trout of Blanco Cellars and The little Cheese Shop partnered with Horizons and provided a presentation on how to put together a holiday Cheese and Charcuterie Board and offered

Horizons Rio Blanco Little Points of Light Campaign Kick Off Party!

Join Horizons Specialized Services and Blanco Cellars and The little Cheese Shop for a virtual party on **Thursday, Dec. 3, from 6 to 7 p.m.** The event is free to attend!

Learn about Horizons Early Intervention Services, Family Support Program, and Little Points of Light Campaign. Vanessa Trout will offer a presentation on how to make the perfect cheese board for any get-together or holiday

Go to horizonsnwc.org to register for the Zoom link. To purchase a Little Points of Light Happy Hour Party Box for \$35, go to blancocellars.com and click on "Collections" then "Curated Collections" to order.

Photo Credits: Chris Hagen

participants optional Happy Hour Party Boxes with the LPOL appeal letter and agency information inside. The second presentation of the evening was from the family featured in this year's LPOL appeal letter. This charismatic and fun-loving family spoke about their move from Seattle to northwest Colorado and the impact of Early Intervention services on their son Wilder. It turned out to be a great event for everyone involved. About 30 people attended, including Susan Mizen, Terry and Sharon Jost, Annette Dellacroce, and Leslie Bjorgum.

Horizons will actively continue to drive donations for the LPOL campaign with ads in local newspapers and on our social media sites throughout the month of December.

Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 8th. This year, Horizons is partnering with both Yampa Valley Gives and Grand County Gives.



Horizons submitted a grant request to the Grand County Board of County Commissioners for \$5,000 for financial reimbursements and operational support of our Grand County Family Support program.

A grant request was submitted to the State of Colorado COVID Relief Fund for \$25,000 for agency general operating.

The agency continues to coordinate with Routt County United Way in their transition from the Holiday Gift Exchange to the Gift Giving Guide for adults enrolled in the Supported Living Services program to receive food gift cards.

With an increased demand for virtual volunteers and more community members seeking to make in-kind donations, Mike Dwire has agreed to temporarily take on the responsibilities of the Volunteer Coordinator.

The Leadership Team and some members of the Board of Directors are meeting with the Routt County Commissioners on December 21st for the annual Mill Levy presentation. This year it will be via Zoom.

State News

The Leadership Team met with Bonnie Silva and Amanda Lofgren from the Office of Community Living at Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) on November 12th to discuss case management redesign and related issues. There continues to be a lack of clarity from HCPF about the details of this redesign but efforts are being made to include the Alliance Shock Team recommendations. Discussion topics include: efforts to create a dedicated case management section for cross disability case management activities and services while eliminating duplication elsewhere; identifying case management requirements in rule and contract based on stakeholder engagement while retaining transparency requirements; updating statute language for SEP/CCB/CMA designations; and eliminating the requirement of the third-party case management broker.

A more imminent issue is day program. Due to COVID, day programs are operating at around 25% capacity across the state, further undermining financial stability for providers. CCB's and providers have reached out to Joint Budget Committee (JBC) members and their staff to convey the critical precipice Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) programs are on right now. But given the financial state of Colorado, Alliance members are skeptical that accommodations will be made.

Finance Report

Matt reported on financials through September of the fiscal year. The most notable issues relate to an inability to provide day habilitation and supported living services due to COVID, and the commensurate loss of revenue. While this issue is ubiquitous statewide, it is still eroding provider stability. Fortunately, Horizons received full forgiveness for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and received Colorado Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) funds, providing a temporary financial capacity to withstand the inability to provide group services and ongoing unfunded mandates from the state Public Health Department and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

Motion: "To approve the Finance Report as presented."

First: Leslie Bjorgum

Second: Jeff Dockstader

The motion passed unanimously.

Program Presentation

Lindsey Garey and Michelle Hoza provided a program presentation on the Early Intervention survey results from 2019 as well as the most recent mock survey conducted by Early Intervention Colorado. Horizons continues to exceed state averages related to service quality standards.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion: "To adjourn the meeting."

First: Jeff Dockstader

Second: Annette Dellacroce

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.